Selling of Passport Forms at High Premium in Darjeeling

2972. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in Darjeeling some persons are selling passport forms at a high premium of rupees one hundred; and

(b) whether Government would take steps to make passport forms available through post offices in Darjeeling as in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government of India.

(b) Yes, Sir. The postal authorities have been authorised to print and sell passport, application forms at all the Head Post Office in the country, including at Darjeeling.

Sino-Indian Security Dialogue

2973. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the maiden Sino-Indian Security dialogue was held recently in Beijing;

(b) if so, the details of discussion/outcome thereof and whether international/South Asia Security issues were also figured during the dialogue; and

(c) what was India's reaction to China's call for a rollback of its (India's) nuclear weapons programmes and honouring of United Nations Security Council resolution in this regard reported in the Hindustan Times dated 3rd April, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The first round of India-China Security Dialogue was held in Beijing on March 6-7, 2000. An agreement to initiate such a dialogue was reached in June 1999, during the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Beijing. The discussions covered global and regional security issues and the importance of maintaining regional peace and security. Both sides agreed that the bilateral security dialogue is conducive to enhancing mutual understanding, expanding consensus and promoting cooperation.